



CLASSIFIED

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

309

WRT

United States Embassy,
Ottawa, Ontario,
July 7, 1961.

SHD

EST

cc GCR

SECRET

No. 1000
Discussed in
Person 7/7/61
PAH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/NR

REVIEWED BY Foy D. Kohler DATE 7/7/61

RDG OR ADSEXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. PERSON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFY/RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
PA OR FOI EXEMPTIONS

Dear Foy:

I am still brooding over Berlin, and this letter is really a second thought to say you should disregard my letter of June 30. The further I ponder what I suggested there, the more I become concerned that the adoption of the line therein proposed would entail too much of the appearance, if not the fact, of acceptance of the basic Soviet thesis, with a resultant excessive cost to our prestige and the reliance of our allies on our resolution. My conclusion is that whatever the consequences, we must maintain our present position and its rationale. We are on a collision course, and obviously the risk of war is great, but in fact less, I have come to believe, than the present or future risk inherent in any other course. I am plowing through Shirer's book and I think the record of the summer of 1939 is increasingly influencing me.

I think, of course, we should arrange to talk to the Russians before the end of the year. This would provide the opportunity to ascertain their real intentions and degree of resolution as well as provide one of the essentials for a rallying of public opinion among our allies.

All the best.

Sincerely,

Livingston T. Merchant

Livingston T. Merchant

The Honorable

See also Foy D. Kohler,
10/16/63 Assistant Secretary for European Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.

Approved by [Signature]

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

88